

Existing law establishes the Lake Catherine and Lake Pontchartrain Sanctuary as a sanctuary for fish, shrimp, and other seafood and marine life. The sanctuary was created by Act No. 476 of 1954 and amended by Act No. 352 of 1956 and Act No. 515 of 1960 and Act No. 222 of 1977 and Act No. 567 of 1985. However, the provisions were never codified into the revised statutes. New law codifies the Lake Catherine and Lake Pontchartrain Sanctuary provisions into the revised statutes.

Prior law defined the boundaries of the sanctuary as the waters of Lake Catherine and its passes, the Rigolets, Unknown Pass and Chef Menteur Pass, and a portion of Lake Pontchartrain as follows: from where the Rigolets and Chef Menteur Pass enters Lake Pontchartrain in a westerly direction to a point four miles west of the Southern Railway Bridge, that portion of the lake east of the railway bridge and that portion of the lake extending out four miles from the shore along the Orleans Parish shoreline to the Jefferson Parish line and that portion of the lake along the north shore extending out four miles from shore and running along the railway bridge to a line drawn between a point four miles southwest of Goose Point and Goose Point. New law decreases the geographical delineation of the sanctuary out from shore from four miles to 1-1/2 miles.

Prior law prohibited the taking of fish in the sanctuary by use of trawls, seines, or traps or other netting with the exception of cast nets, drop nets, or scoop nets. Further provides that seines less than 100 feet long are permitted along the north shore from Bayou Liberty to Bayou Castine. New law deletes the exception for seines of less than 100 feet along the North Shore.

Prior law authorized trawling in Lake Pontchartrain from August 12 to December 15 and authorizes the use of 16-foot bait trawls in Lake Pontchartrain at any time. Further authorizes the use of seines and trammel nets with 1-1/4 inch mesh along the north shore from Goose Point to Bayou Castine. Prohibits seining anywhere else in Lake Pontchartrain. New law repeals all of these provisions.

New law authorizes the taking of catfish by hoop nets or legal slat traps; authorizes the use of crab traps; and authorizes the use of trawls, skimmer nets, and butterfly nets in open seasons in the area located south and east of the I-10 bridge.

Existing law provides that the sanctuary be administered by the Fish and Game Section of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission or its successor. New law retains this provision.

Existing law authorizes the taking of fish by means not prohibited, including by skin divers operating for sport while submerged in the water and using standard spearing equipment. Such authorized taking of fish shall be during open seasons and in accordance with regulation by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. New law retains these provisions.

Prior law provided that violations are punishable by a fine of between \$100 and \$400 or imprisonment for between 30 days and six months and shall include forfeiture of catch and gear which shall be sold. New law provides penalties of between \$250 and \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or both, with forfeiture of gear and catch.

Prior law excluded boats and motors from the gear which would be forfeited by the violator. New law repeals this provision.

Prior law authorized the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to permit trawling for shrimp for use as live bait, provided that no trawl exceeds 16 feet and that such permits are revocable at will and permits are not transferrable. New law repeals these provisions.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 56:804)